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31 October 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

FDB Monthly Progress Report

1. Forwarded herewith is progress report of Foreign Documents Branch for month ending 31 October 1947.

2. Implementation of recently proposed plans and policies:

a. Foreign periodicals

- (1) Pursuant to Memorandum from Asst Dir, OCD, subject: FDB Periodical Abstracts, dated 18 September, the following foreword is now included in each issue of the Abstracts. "Material abstracted in this publication has not been translated. The original-language periodicals are available in various libraries as indicated. Due to personnel limitations within CIA, each recipient of this publication is strongly encouraged to prepare its own translations of such articles. "When an agency intends to make such a translation, Foreign Documents Branch should be notified promptly (Telephone Executive 6115, Ext 575) in order to avoid possible duplication. Foreign Documents Branch also requests that it be furnished with one copy of such translations. If agencies are unable to prepare translations desired by them, requests for translation of such articles as are considered to be of outstanding intelligence value should be addressed to the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA, 2430 E Street, NW, Washington, 25, D.C.; reference should be made to the code numbers and letters in the lower right-hand corner of each card. Requests for the loan of original-language periodicals which are indicated herein as being available in FDB, CIA, should likewise be addressed to the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA." Five issues were disseminated during the month.

(2) Survey of potential sources

- (a) Weather Bureau. This office obtains only one Russian periodical entitled "Meteorology and Hydrology". Arrangements were made to obtain this on a

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loan basis. No Far Eastern periodicals being received.

- (b) Bureau of Standards. Contact with this office revealed receipt of some current Russian periodicals. Arrangements were made to have a complete list drawn up and forwarded to this branch. They are also agreeable to loan of these periodicals.
  - (c) Bureau of Mines. No Russian or Far Eastern periodicals currently being received. However, arrangements have been made to obtain one Rumanian periodical on loan.
  - (d) National Research Council. This source is potentially of great value. Large quantities of foreign scientific periodicals, including Russian, are currently being received.
  - (e) Department of Agriculture Library. This library receives a voluminous number of current foreign periodicals. Tentative arrangements have been made to obtain a bibliographic listing issued monthly. Inter-library loan arrangements can be effected if necessary.
  - (f) Army Map Service. Periodicals available on loan to AMS are already being monitored by FDB. Complete list of periodicals available to them obtained and now on file in FDB.
  - (g) Office of International Trade. This office currently receives 17 Russian periodicals. List of these obtained and placed on file. Any further arrangements must await possible approval of bilateral agreement.
- (3) Foreign periodicals, USSR and Far Eastern are presently being received on a loan basis from the Library of Congress; Office of Naval Intelligence; Intelligence Division, GSUSA; Naval Research Laboratory and State Dept.

### 3. Accomplishment of overall mission.

- a. Clarification of FDB mission will in all probability have

to await action on proposed implementing supplement 1/5

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- b. No decision or authorization concerning disposition of documents has been received from OCD. This is being anxiously awaited in anticipation of some alleviation of the problem of storage for large quantities of documents no longer of interest.
- c. Transfer date of central ICF operations to Reference Center has been moved out to 1 December 1947. This is now regarded as a definite date and it is anticipated that all reproduction facilities of FDB will be transferred at the same time.
- d. The following coordination of translation facilities has been effected:
  - (1) ID, GSUSA. Arrangements have been initiated with Translation Section, ID, to notify FDB on a monthly basis of all foreign language translations in progress or contemplated. This section has five translators and a three thousand (3000) page backlog.
  - (2) Weather Bureau. Arrangements made to obtain unpublished manuscript translations of articles from Russian periodicals held by this office. Further, a list of all foreign documents and translations, if any, held by the Weather Bureau is being prepared and will be forwarded to this branch.
  - (3) Agriculture Dept. Library. No translation section available. Occasional translations farmed out on a contractual basis. However, consideration is being given to the establishment of a translation section.
  - (4) No translation is being done by any of the following at this time:
    - Weather Bureau, Bureau of Standards,
    - Bureau of Mines, National Research Council, Office of International Trade, Air Intelligence HQ, USAF.
- e. For list of reports produced by FDB during reporting period, see Appendix I.
- f. Requirements have again increased over the preceding month. For list of projects currently assigned to FDB, see Appendix II.
- g. Detailed review of the FDB personnel situation will be found in Appendix III.

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4. Proposals for improvement and projects contemplated.

- a. Proposed assignment by A&M of a translation service to the organization and functions of FDB should eventually prove to be efficient and worth-while. It is hoped that implementing arrangements allowing interim hiring and use of personnel not yet cleared may be readily effected. If so, it will be of considerable assistance to the work of the branch. It is believed that such personnel could and should be used on the translation of selected articles from current foreign periodicals.
- b. It is contemplated that contact will be made in the near future with the following agencies to determine periodical holdings and translation facilities.
  - (1) Engineering Foundation - 29 W. 39th St., New York City
  - (2) American Institute of Physics - 57 E. 55th St., New York City
  - (3) Columbia University Libraries
  - (4) American Chemical Society - Washington Office
  - (5) State Dept. Translation Section
  - (6) ONI Translation Section
  - (7) Army Medical Library
  - (8) Geological Survey, Interior Dept.
  - (9) Army Medical Intelligence
- c. It is suggested that improvement in the procurement of personnel for FDB might be effected if a representative from this branch were allowed to contact foreign language departments and foreign language majors in their senior year or doing graduate work in the various universities prior to their completion of the academic year. In this way qualifications determination and clearance proceedings could be effected prior to the end of the school year so that personnel so selected might go to work immediately at that time.

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Colonel, FA,  
Chief, Foreign Documents Branch

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